REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended.

Sole independent system claim 1 remains.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Goldhaber et al. US 5,269,946.

Claim 1, as amended, defines the presence of three specified blood products, two of which have been treated with different specified filtration media to yield specified different results and which are also essentially free of residual air due to venting of residual air after filtration. Further, claim 1, as amended, defines a fourth storage container from which an additive solution for one of the blood products (red blood cells) has been transferred prior to filtration of the one blood product, and into which residual air from the another blood product (platelet-poor plasma) is transferred after that blood product has been filtered. Claim 1, as amended, also defines, the presence of the three specified blood products, each contained in its own first, second, and third storage container, and the fourth storage container which contains residual air from one of the blood components. Goldhaber '946 does not teach or suggest a blood processing system having this combination of elements, including a fourth storage container as defined in amended claim 1. In Goldhaber '946 , the source container for additive solution (reference number 26) becomes the storage container for platelet-poor plasma and, by design, is not available to receive residual air so that the platelet-poor plasma can be essentially freed of residual air. Goldhaber '946 does not teach or suggest a blood processing system that yields, in combination: (i) a first storage container containing a unit of red blood cells mixed with an additive solution that is essentially free of residual air, and that is also made essentially free of leukocytes by passage through a fibrous filter media; (ii) a second storage container containing a unit of cell free platelet-poor plasma that is also essentially free of residual air, and that is further made essentially free of red blood cells, platelets, and leukocytes by passage through a membrane filter media; (iii) a third storage container containing a unit of platelets; and (iv) a fourth storage container that (a) once served as the source of additive solution for the red blood cells, and (b) now contains residual air from the platelet-poor plasma. This combination of elements is not taught, suggested, or contemplated by Goldhaber '946. Indeed,

Goldhaber's use of the additive solution container as a blood component storage container teaches away from the subject matter defined in claim 1.

Support for the subject matter defined in claim 1 is found, e.g., in Fig. 10 and Specification Page 22, line 15 to Page 23, line 5. The fourth container defined in claim 1 corresponds with container reference number 14.

The Examiner's attention is directed to the Information Disclosure Statement that accompanies this Amendment.

Allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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